

# The bhl mode

Convert plain text to HTML/LaTeX/Texinfo/SGML/TXT

Bastien Guerry

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This manual is for the bhl mode (version 1.8rc3, 19/01/2006).

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## BHL mode : Plain text - HTML - LaTeX - ...

This is the manual of bhl version 1.8rc3.

bhl is an Emacs mode that enables you to convert a plain text file into an HTML, SGML, LaTeX, Texinfo, Wiki and TXT file. Since you can run bhl *offline*, it's also a standalone format: writing a bhl file makes it ready for generic conversions.

“bhl” is an acronym for: **B**rute (i.e. “plain”) to **H**tml and **L**aTeX.

I have been asked if there was an easy way to pronounce “bhl”. Yes, there is. **Bhl**- is the indo-european root for “blow” (and derivative but less poetic verbs like “blather”). So, just say “blow”.

# 1 Overview

## 1.1 What is BHL?

bhl is a text formatting and publishing tool. It is an Emacs mode that provides two kinds of tools: tools for editing a plain text file as an implicitly structured document, and tools for converting this document into other formats: HTML, SGML, LaTeX, Texinfo and TXT.

In order to be readable by bhl, a plain text file must fit some syntactic conventions. These conventions are neither completely universal nor specially odd. They are chosen among the most useful and the most convenient text formatting conventions. The purpose of this mode is to use the most *invisible* and *convenient* syntax. “Invisible syntax” means that the source file must be as readable as possible – like any plain text file must be. “Convenient syntax” means that it must fit the users’ habits.

For example, **\*word\*** appears in bold; *\_word\_* appears in emphasis; lists and URLs follow `StructuredText` or `Wiki` conventions; the numbering of sections respects logic and intuition. (See [Chapter 3 \[The syntax\]](#), page 4.)

In short: there is nothing you have to learn to write your documents with the bhl mode (just try, it’s true).

bhl is not WYSIWYG since you are only editing text. bhl is not WYSIWYM (like LyX), since what you mean is editing text. So, what is bhl? It is WYSIWYS (IWYS): What You See Is What You See (Is What You See). Editing text is editing text.

## 1.2 Why should I use BHL?

### *Happy sectioning*

You can easily update the numbering of sections and (sub)subsections. You can easily choose/convert the style of sectioning. You can insert the table of content where you want. See [Section 3.2 \[Sections\]](#), page 4.

### *Happy links*

bhl likes links: you can quickly jump to the next link, follow it (either an URL or a WikiName), browse through the complete list of your document’s links and insert this list into your document. See [Section 5.2 \[The list of links\]](#), page 16.

### *Happy specifications*

You can specify some conversion properties inside a document, so that bhl converts this document properly. See [Section 4.2 \[Specifications\]](#), page 12.

### *Happy footnotes*

Footnotes won’t stay aside. You can convert each of them, even if you are not using the classical numeric style.

## 2 Installing BHL

You have just downloaded ‘bhl.tar.gz’ on <http://www.nongnu.org/bhl>. Untar the archive like this:

```
~$ tar zxvf 'bhl.tar.gz'
```

Go to the bhl-\*/ directory and set up the ‘Makefile’. Once this is done, just compile and install like this:

```
~$ make
```

```
~$ make install
```

If you want to install bhl in your /usr/local/ or /usr/share/ paths, you need to have superuser (i.e. root) permissions. But don’t worry: at the end of the install procedure, a message tells you if something has gone wrong.

If you want to generate and install the ‘bhl.info’ file:

```
~$ make info
```

```
~$ make install-info
```

If you want the printed manual (PDF):

```
~$ make pdf
```

If you want the HTML manual:

```
~$ make html
```

If you want to clean up the directory:

```
~$ make clean
```

You can add these lines to your ‘~/emacs.el’:

```
(autoload 'bhl-mode "bhl" "BHL Mode" t)
```

```
(add-to-list 'auto-mode-alist ('("\\.bhl$" . bhl-mode))
```

The last line enables you to associate a new extension (i.e. .bhl) with the bhl editing mode, so that bhl will automatically be loaded when you open a .bhl ending file.

## 3 The syntax

Ordinarily, a plain text file has no visible or invisible syntax. To be bhl-readable, a file has to respect some conventions.

### 3.1 Title and paragraphs

The title is mandatory. bhl tries to read it in the very first lines of the buffer. The title is on a line that does not include any newline or tab character.

The subtitle is not mandatory. It is currently included in the HTML, TXT and Texinfo output. You can include it as a specification, like this:

```
#!subtitle!My subtile subtitle
```

For details on how to format and insert specifications, See [Section 4.2 \[Specifications\]](#), page 12.

The paragraphs always begin at the beginning of the line. Don't indent paragraphs: restrict indentation to lists.

### 3.2 Sections

bhl handles three levels of section: sections, subsections and subsubsections.

bhl handles five different sectioning styles: `num`, `alpha`, `aster`, `equal-sign` and `user-defined`. The default style is set to numerical.

Here is a table with examples of each sectioning style:

<code>num</code>	1.<SPC>A section 1.1.<SPC>A subsection 1.1.1.<SPC>A subsubsection
<code>alpha</code>	A.<SPC>A section A.A.<SPC>A subsection A.A.A.<SPC>A subsubsection
<code>aster</code>	*<SPC>A section **<SPC>A subsection ***<SPC>A subsubsection
<code>equal-sign</code>	=<SPC>A section ==<SPC>A subsection ===<SPC>A subsubsection

You can choose the default style of sectioning by modifying `bhl-sectioning-default-style`. This is the default sectioning style for any newly created bhl file.

When you find an already existant bhl file, bhl tries to guess its sectioning style, if you've set `bhl-autoguess-style-flag` to `t` – which is its default value. At any time, you can ask bhl to guess the style with `bhl-guess-style`, which is bound to `(C-c M-s)` (and also available from the menu, as usual).

For example, suppose you are using the alphabetical style in `foo.bhl` and your `bhl-sectioning-default-style` is set to `num`, then bhl will automatically turn the current style to `alpha`. If bhl is not able to recognize any style, it sets the sectioning style to the value of `bhl-sectioning-default-style`.

Don't mix sectioning styles! If bhl finds a numerical section, it will consider that all the (sub)sections are numerical, which is actually rather stupid, but I've no time for this at the moment.

You can switch from one style to another style from the menu or with `bhl-sectioning-switch-style`. This command reads a style from the minibuffer and converts the (sub)sections' prefix into the chosen style.

If you choose to use your own style, you have to manually customize `bhl-my-sectioning-regexp-list`. See [Section 7.1 \[Global options\], page 21](#). This variable includes a list of the three regular expressions that match respectively the sections, subsections and subsubsections. Please note that `bhl-udpate-toc` won't work anymore if you set `bhl-sectioning-default-style` to `my`.

You can update the sections' prefix (numbers or letters) with `(C-c M-t)`, which is the default key binding for `bhl-update-toc`.

### 3.3 Fonts and environments

This section describes the use of font beautifiers, environments and horizontal rules.

#### 3.3.1 Font beautifiers

Font beautifiers allow you to emphasize, underline, boldify and truetypeify some words.

In the SGML and Texinfo outputs, *underline* means put in italic, just like *emphasis*. In the HTML and LaTeX output, *underline* means underline truly.

If you want to put your text in bold-italic, use `_*this order*_` rather than `*_this order_*`. Note that bold-italic is not available in the Texinfo output.

If you want to insert an underscore or an asterisk that has no syntactic meaning, put an escape character before: `\*` and `\_`. The same is possible with the comment character `#`. See [Section 3.3.2 \[Comments\], page 6](#).

You can choose a font beautifier for a specific region with the `bhl-change-font-` commands. See [Section 6.4 \[Changing font\], page 18](#).

Here are the tags to be used in your bhl file if you want to change the fonts:

```
'*a word*' put 'a word' in bold font.
'_a word_' put 'a word' in emphasis font.
'_*a word*_'
    put 'a word' in bold and italic font.
```

```
'__a word__'
    underline 'a word'.

'==a word=='
    put 'a word' in truetype font.
```

### 3.3.2 Comments

The character for introducing new comments is #.

You can insert comments wherever you want, but comments always end at the end of the current line. There is no “ending-comment” character.

If you want to insert a # which should not introduce a new comment, use the escape sequence \#.

You can comment the current region with `bhl-comment-region` `(C-c:)` and uncommment it by adding a symbolic prefix to `bhl-comment-region` `(C-u C-c:)`.

You can make comments invisible with `bhl-hide-comment` and make them visible again with `C-u bhl-hide-comment`.

### 3.3.3 Environments

bhl handles three environments: `quote`, `verbatim` and `minipage`. The first one quotes some part of text. The second one may be useful for inserting code into a documentation. The third one creates a minipage inside the main page, with or without borders.

#### 3.3.3.1 Quote environment

To quote some part, just add one single tab in the beginning of each line. Here is an example:

```
Put some words here.
Put some words here.
Put some words here.
Put some words here.
```

#### 3.3.3.2 Verbatim environment

Here is the syntax of the `verbatim` environment:

```
--
Put some words here.
--
```

Attention: two dashes are the default delimiters for the `verbatim` environment, while four dashes are markers for horizontal rules.

Remember that the highlighting of dashes indicates the syntactic role they play when `bhl-special-face` differs from `bhl-hr-face` (which is the default case). See [Section 3.3.4 \[Horizontal rules\]](#), page 7.

The `bhl-verbatim-ignore` variable contains a list of syntactic elements that have no meaning inside a verbatim environment. This means that those syntactic elements won't be converted, even if they are fontified. See [Section 7.1 \[Global options\]](#), page 21.

### 3.3.3.3 Minipage environment

Here an example of how to insert a `minipage`:

```

%%%[12cm]
This minipage (12cm) will be centered without border.
%%%

<%%[10cm]
This minipage (10cm) will be put on the left without border.
%%%

>-%
This minipage will be put on the right with borders.
%%%

```

The basic indicator for the beginning and the end of a minipage environment is `%%%` at the beginning of a line. This indicates a centered minipage, without border and of the same width as the main page.

By replacing the first `%` with a `<` or a `>`, you put the minipage respectively on the left or on the right. For example, `<%%%` indicates a left aligned minipage which has the same width as the main page.

By replacing the second `%` with a dash (`-`), you put solid borders on the minipage. For example, `<-%%%` indicates the beginning of a minipage that has the same width as the main page, put on the left with solid borders.

The length can be put into square brackets like this: `%%[8cm]`. It is optional. Avoid using relative lengths such as “40%”: the `%` character is syntax-sensible in the LaTeX environment. Use only absolute lengths and common units.

Minipages are properly converted only for the HTML, LaTeX and Texinfo outputs. For the Texinfo output, you can choose what a centered minipage looks like with `bhl-texi-centered-minipage-tag`. For the SGML output, you can choose what a minipage looks like with `bhl-sgml-minipage-tag`. `bhl2txt` does not convert minipages, it simply strips the `%%%` at the beginning of the line.

You can insert a minipage with `bhl-insert-minipage`. See [Section 6.2 \[Inserting\]](#), page 17.

### 3.3.4 Horizontal rules

A horizontal rule is represented by at less four dashes (`----` - Small), equal signs (`====` - Large) or slashes (`////` - X-Large) at the beginning of a line.

The first character can be replaced by an indicator of alignment.

Attention: horizontal rules are not converted in the SGML and Texinfo formats.

```

----[12cm]
<---[12cm]
>---[12cm]

```

The first line will be centered. The second line will be put on the left. The third line will be put on the right. The width of these lines is 12cm. The length is optional: you can simply insert `----`, `====` or `////`.

You can insert a horizontal rule with `bhl-insert-hr`. See [Section 6.2 \[Inserting\]](#), page 17.

## 3.4 Escaping characters

You can escape four characters: asterisk (\*), underscore (\_), sharp # and backslash \. When escaped, these characters have no syntactic effect anymore. Escaping backslashes only makes sense for the `bhl2latex` conversion.

When converting into LaTeX, bhl escapes some characters by itself. These characters are: `$ & % { }`. Attention: the `bhl2latex` conversion does NOT *automatically* convert backslashes. You've to insert something like `$$backslash$` by yourself or escape them like `\\`. When converting into Texinfo, bhl escapes `@ { }`.

If you don't want that bhl escapes those characters, just escape them by yourself in the bhl file.

## 3.5 Handling links

### 3.5.1 What is a link?

There are two kinds of links: URLs and WikiNames. An URL is... you know what it is. A WikiName is a mixed-case word like "MyWikiName". When the cursor is on a link, you can hit `(RET)` or `(mouse-2)` to follow it. Following an URL calls `bhl-browse-url-function`. Following a WikiName finds a new file whose name is the concatenation of the WikiName and the `.bhl` extension.

You can downcase this resulting name by setting `bhl-downcase-wikifiles-names-flag` to `non-nil`. You can also change the default extension of WikiFiles names by setting `bhl-default-wikifiles-extension`. The list of mixed-case strings that shouldn't be considered as WikiNames is stored in `bhl-non-wiki-names-list`.

You can see the list of links of your document with `bhl-show-1o1`, which is bound to `(C-c C-/)`. You can insert the list of links of your document with `bhl-insert-1o1`, which is bound to `(C-c C-c l)`. See [Section 5.2 \[The list of links\], page 16](#).

You can browse URLs and WikiNames with `bhl-goto-next-url-or-wiki` `(C-TAB)`. (See [Section 6.3 \[Browsing the BHL file\], page 18](#).)

### 3.5.2 Converting Links

URLs are converted by the `bhl-convert-url` function and WikiNames are converted by the `bhl-convert-wiki-names` function. You can write your URL as it is (`http://site.org`), or put it into square brackets to define a label: `[[http://site.org] [my site]]`.

You can insert an URL with `bhl-insert-url`, `(C-c C-c h)`: See [Chapter 6 \[Commands and key bindings\], page 17](#).

Here is a list of some URLs and their conversions into the HTML format:

```

http://site.org
    <a href="http://site.org">http://site.org</a>
url:mypage.html
    <a href="mypage.html">mypage.html</a>
[[http://site.org] [SITE]]
    <a href="http://site.org">SITE</a>
mailto:bb@site.fr
    <a href="mailto:bb@site.org">bb@site.org</a>
[[mailto:bb@site.fr] [BB]]
    <a href="mailto:bb@site.org">BB</a>

```

Here is a list of some URLs and their conversions into the LaTeX format:

```

http://site.org
    \url{http://site.org}
url:mypage.html
    \url{mypage.html}
[[http://site.org] [SITE]]
    SITE (\url{http://site.org})
mailto:bb@site.org
    \url{bb@site.org}
[[mailto:bb@site.org] [BB]]
    BB (\url{bb@site.org})

```

Here is a list of some URLs and their conversions into the Texinfo format:

```

http://site.org
    @uref{http://site.org}
url:mypage.html
    @uref{mypage.html}
[[http://site.org] [SITE]]
    @uref{http://site.org,SITE}
mailto:bb@site.org
    @uref{bb@site.org}
[[mailto:bb@site.org] [BB]]
    @uref{bb@site.org,BB}

```

Here is a list of some URLs and their conversions into the SGML format:

```

http://site.org
    <HTMLURL URL="http://site.org" NAME="http://site.org">
url:mypage.html
    <HTMLURL URL="mypage.html" NAME="mypage.html">
[[http://site.org] [SITE]
    <HTMLURL URL="http://site.org" NAME="SITE">
mailto:bb@site.org
    <HTMLURL URL="mailto:bb@site.org" NAME="mailto:bb@site.org">
[[mailto:bb@site.org] [BB]]
    <HTMLURL URL="mailto:bb@site.org" NAME="BB">

```

Here is a list of some URLs and their conversions into the TXT format:

```

http://site.org
    http://site.org
url:mypage.html
    mypage.html
[[http://site.org] [SITE]
    http://site.org (SITE)
mailto:bb@fardeau.fr
    bb@fardeau.fr
[[mailto:bb@fardeau.fr] [BB]]
    bb@fardeau.fr (BB)

```

In these examples, you can replace ‘http://’ by ‘ftp://’ or ‘file:///’. When using `[[...][...]]`, a prefix like ‘http://’ is not mandatory.

### 3.6 Handling lists

bhl handles three kinds of lists: non-ordered lists, ordered lists and descriptive (or definition) lists.

A *non-ordered list item* is defined by: some `<TAB>` at the beginning of the line, a list separator among `<- * o>`, a whitespace.

An *ordered list item* is defined by: some `<TAB>` at the beginning of the line, a number, a dot, a whitespace.

A *definition list item* is defined by: some `<TAB>` at the beginning of the line, a term, a whitespace, two dashes, a whitespace.

`<TAB>` inserts an indent-relative TAB, while `<M-TAB>` inserts a rigid TAB measuring exactly three columns. Make sure that there is a whitespace after a `*`: no whitespace means that the next characters may use bold font.

bhl handles also nested lists, but no definition list can be nested. To add a nested item, just add a TAB character relatively to the previous item. In each list, the first item indicates the kind: ordered, non-ordered or definition list.

Here is a table of lists separators:

```
<TAB(S)>[*,-,o]<SPC>
    item of a non-ordered list

<TAB(S)>[0-9].<SPC>
    item of an ordered list (enumerate)

<TAB(S)>A term<SPC>--<SPC>
    item of a definition list
```

Take a look at the examples on <http://www.nongnu.org/bhl> for further details.

### 3.7 Handling tables

Here is an example of a table:

@Name@	@First name@	@Age@	
Jean	Luc-Henri	123	
Paul	Matthieu	2	

The character | has three different functions: it begins a new row, it separates two cells, it ends a row. Whitespaces and tab characters are NOT allowed between the beginning of a new line and the first |.

Optional @ around the cell content indicates that this cell is a header. Typically, you put headers on the very first row of the table. In the HTML output, a header cell is put into <TH></TH> tags. In other LaTeX and SGML, the header line is separated from the rest of the table by an horizontal rule.

More details about the table options: See [Section 7.10 \[Converting tables\]](#), page 27.

### 3.8 Handling images

Here is an example of how to insert an image:

```
[[image.jpg]]
```

You can search for a particular file and insert it as an image with `(C-c C-c i)`, wich is the default key binding for `bhl-insert-image`.

Only `bh12html` handles images. Other conversion functions like `bh12sgml`, `bh12texinfo` or `bh12latex` put images into comment strings. `bh12txt` erases images.

## 4 Properties of conversion

You may want to convert your *bhl* document without customizing anything. This is OK. But you surely want to control some properties of the different conversion functions. For example, you may decide that the HTML conversion includes the table of contents, whereas the LaTeX conversion doesn't. You may want to calculate the `\date{...}` command of the LaTeX output relatively to the current time. You may want to set up a different CSS style for a particular HTML output. Etc.

This section tells you how to do this.

### 4.1 Overview of properties

The two important variables for the choice of conversions properties are *bhl-xxx-conversions-list* and *bhl2xxx-properties-list*, where *xxx* is the name of the conversion. See [Section 7.1 \[Global options\]](#), page 21.

*bhl-xxx-conversions-list* includes the detailed list of conversions for each format. Normally you should not change this variable too often.

*bhl2xxx-properties-list* allows you to set global options for the conversion. These global options deal with the checking of dubious tags, the insertion of the sections' prefix, the tables' captions, the i18n conventions, the insertion of the table of contents and the centering of sections/title (for the `bh12txt` conversion.) You can change this variable by:

- inserting a specification line inside your *bhl* document;
- selecting the options from the menu;
- modifying this variable with `M-x customize`.

This order is important: the options set inside a specification line will override the options set from the menu, which override those set in the default customization.

These global options are set to their default value (i.e. their customized value) each time you run the `bhl-mode` command. They are also set to their default value after each conversion, except if you remove the `bhl-initialize-properties` function from the `bhl-after-conversion-hook` list.

### 4.2 Specifications

*bhl* allows you to add some specification lines inside a document, so that *bhl* handles *this* document adequately. Specifications concern mainly two kind of properties: the properties of the document's header and the conversion properties. Here are some examples of specification lines:

```
#!html!prefix:check:caption:toc
#!latex!noprefix:nocheck:nocaption:notoc
#!date!It's %H:%M.
```

In this example, the command `bh12html` will insert the sections' prefix, check for dubious tags, ask for a caption for each table and insert the table of contents (also known as *toc*). The command `bh12latex` WON'T insert the sections' prefix, check for dubious tags, ask for a caption for each table and insert the *toc*. The date will be set to the current time (hours:minutes). Quite simple, isn't it?

A specification line is always a comment at the beginning of the line. It splits into two parts: a *prefix*, which is enclosed into two exclamation marks, and the *labels*, which are separated by a column. Each label can be turned off by adding `no-`: `notoc` is the exact opposite of `toc`.

Here is a complete list of available specification prefix and their relevant labels.

- `#!author!` The name of the author for the current document.
- `#!title!` The title of the document. This specification overrides any other title (the first line of the buffer or any `#!xxx-title!` specification).
- `#!xxx-title!` The title of the document for the `xxx` conversion. `xxx` may be `html`, `sgml`, `texi` or `latex`. This specification is overridden by the `#!title!` specification, and overrides the first line of the buffer.
- `#!subtitle!` The subtitle of the document. The subtitle conversion is supported only for the HTML, Texinfo and TXT output.
- `#!lang!` The language of the document. This override the value of *bhl-i18n-conventions*. In the Texinfo output, it sets the value of `@documentlanguage`.
- `#!encoding!` The encoding of the document. This information is relevant for the Texinfo and HTML conversion. In the Texinfo output, it sets the value of `@documentencoding`. In the HTML output, it overrides the value of *bhl-html-content-type*.
- `#!date!` The date of the current document. Since the column has no special meaning here, you can use the Emacs time-formatting conventions. For example, `#!date!%H:%M` will set `date` to the current time (hours:minutes). See Info file ‘Elisp’, node ‘Time Conversion’.
- `#!html!` The prefix concerning `bh12html` specifications. Here is a complete list of available labels:
- `prefix` Insert the prefix of (sub)sections.
  - `check` Check for dubious HTML tags/comments before converting.
  - `caption` Ask for a caption when converting a table.
  - `i18n` Use `i18n` conventions.
  - `toc` Insert the table of content in the HTML output.
- `#!html-style!` The CSS file to refer to as the style for the HTML output.
- `#!latex!` The prefix concerning `bh12latex` specifications. Here is a complete list of available labels:
- `prefix` Insert the prefix of (sub)sections.

`check`      Check for dubious LaTeX commands/comments before converting.  
`caption`     Ask for a caption when converting a table.  
`i18n`         Use i18n conventions.  
`toc`         Insert the table of content in the LaTeX output.

**#!latex-class!**

The class of the LaTeX output.

**#!latex-options!**

The options of the chosen class. You can insert as many options as you want, provided that you separate them with a column.

**#!latex-packages!**

Some LaTeX packages and their options. For example :

```
#!latex-packages!fontenc[T1]:[latin1]inputenc:babel[french]

\usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
\usepackage[latin1]{inputenc}
\usepackage[french]{babel}
```

The location of the square brackets doesn't matter.

**#!texi!**      The prefix concerning `bh12texinfo` specifications. Here is a complete list of available labels:

`check`      Check for dubious Texinfo commands/comments before converting.  
`i18n`         Use i18n conventions.  
`toc`         Insert the table of content in the Texinfo output.

**#!texi-style!**

The style of the frontpage in the Texinfo output. May be either `classical` or `centered`.

**#!sgml!**      The prefix of `bh12sgml` specifications. Here is a complete list of available labels:

`check`      Check for dubious SGML tags/comments before converting.  
`caption`     Ask for a caption when converting a table.  
`i18n`         Use i18n conventions.

**#!txt!**        The prefix of `bh12txt` specifications. Here is a complete list of available labels:

`center`     Center the title and (sub)sections' titles.  
`toc`         Insert the table of content in the TXT output.  
`tas`         tabs are spaces: convert tabs to whitespaces in the TXT output.

## 5 Browsing your document

The bhl mode comes with two commands that allows you to browse your document: `bhl-show-toc` and `bhl-show-1o1`. The latter is not a joke: it allows you to browse the list of links. The former allows you to browse the table of contents. These two commands create a new buffer turned into either `bhl-toc-mode` or `bhl-1o1-mode`.

### 5.1 The table of contents

The bhl mode enables you to update the numbering of sections of your bhl file, to insert the table of contents into your bhl file, to browse the table of contents in a new buffer.

Two variables are required to handle the table of contents: `bhl-toc-location` and `bhl-default-toc-depth`. The first one defines the location of the inserted toc. You can change its value via the menu or via `customize`. The second one defines the default toc depth.

You can insert the toc with `bhl-insert-toc` (`C-c C-c t`). A numeric argument defines the depth of this inserted toc. You can also insert the toc from the `*toc*` buffer with `Ⓜ`. From this buffer, the toc depth is set to the depth of the currently displayed toc.

When it converts the buffer, bhl first checks if there is a table of contents. If there is one, bhl inserts it in the output according to the current toc location of the buffer.

#### 5.1.1 Browse the table of contents

You can get a new buffer, named `*toc*`, with a browsable table of contents. You can browse the toc via the menu or with the key binding (`C-c C-t`). An optional numeric argument indicates the toc depth.

- `?` Display a quick help for the `bhl-toc-mode`.
- `q` Quit the `*toc*` buffer.
- `n` Go to the next item.
- `p` Go to the previous item.
- `>` Go to the last item.
- `<` Go to the first item.
- `Ⓜ` Insert the table of contents in your bhl file.
- `1` Set the toc depth to 1.
- `2` Set the toc depth to 2.
- `3` Set the toc depth to 3.

#### 5.1.2 Insert the table of contents

You can insert the table of contents of your bhl file into itself with (`C-c C-c t`). If a toc has already been inserted, this command only updates the table of contents, leaving it to its current location. If a toc has not been inserted yet, this command inserts a new one according to the value of `bhl-toc-location`. An optional numeric argument indicates the toc depth.

## 5.2 The list of links

You can see the list of links with `bhl-show-1o1`. The default key for this command is `(C-c C-/)`. A new buffer is created, named `*1o1*` and turned into the `bhl-1o1-mode`.

While moving inside this buffer, your document's buffer is updated so that its point is set to the link you're currently pointing on. You can also visit the link you're pointing on with `(RET)` or `(mouse-2)`.

Here is a list of the available commands inside the `bhl-1o1-mode`:

- `(?)` Display a quick help for the `bhl-1o1-mode`.
- `(q)` Quit the `*1o1*` buffer.
- `(n)` Go to the next item/link.
- `(p)` Go to the previous item/link.
- `(>)` Go to the last item/link.
- `(<)` Go to the first item/link.
- `(i)` Insert the list of links into your document.

## 6 Commands and key bindings

This section describes the main commands of the bhl mode.

### 6.1 Conversion commands

This conversion commands end with two hooks: a hook relative to each conversion format (*bhl-xxx-after-conversion-hook*) and a global hook (*bhl-after-conversion-hook*). You can also reach these commands from the popup menu C-down-mouse-3: press control and the right button of the mouse.

**bhl2html** [Function]  
Convert the current buffer into HTML and display the output in a new buffer. The default key binding is C-c C-w.

**bhl2latex** [Function]  
Convert the current buffer into LaTeX and display the output in a new buffer. The default key binding is C-c C-l.

**bhl2texinfo** [Function]  
Convert the current buffer into Texinfo and display the output in a new buffer. The default key binding is C-c C-o.

**bhl2sgml** [Function]  
Convert the current buffer into SGML (Linuxdoc) and display the output in a new buffer. The default key binding is C-c C-s.

**bhl2wiki** [Function]  
Convert the current buffer into (kind of) WIKI and display the output in a new buffer. Strip the remaining tags and syntactic elements. The default key binding is C-c C-k.

**bhl2txt** [Function]  
Convert the current buffer into TXT and display the output in a new buffer. Strip the remaining tags and syntactic elements. The default key binding is C-c C-d.

### 6.2 Inserting

**bhl-insert-url** [Function]  
Read an URL and his name from the minibuffer and insert it. The default key binding is C-c C-c h.

**bhl-insert-image** [Function]  
Read the filename of an image from the minibuffer and insert it. The default key binding is C-c C-c i.

**bhl-insert-minipage** [Function]  
Insert a minipage. The default key binding is C-c C-c m.

**bhl-insert-verbatim** [Function]  
Insert a verbatim environment. The default key binding is C-c C-c v.

**bhl-insert-hr** [Function]  
 Insert a horizontal rule. Ask for its alignment and width in the minibuffer. The default key binding is  $\langle \overline{C-c C-c r} \rangle$ .

**bhl-insert-toc** [*depth*] [Function]  
 Insert the table of contents into the current buffer. The default key binding is  $\langle \overline{C-c C-c t} \rangle$ . This command is also available from the *\*toc\** buffer in **bhl-toc-mode** with  $\hat{t}$ .

The optional argument (*depth*) indicates the toc depth. Without any argument, the toc depth's value is *bhl-default-toc-depth*.

You can insert the table of contents in three different places: just after the title, just before the end, just at the point. The value of *bhl-toc-location* defines the toc location.

**bhl-insert-lol** [Function]  
 Insert the list of links into the current buffer. The default key binding is  $\langle \overline{C-c C-c l} \rangle$ . This command is also available from the *\*lol\** buffer in **bhl-lol-mode** with  $\hat{l}$ .

## 6.3 Browsing the BHL file

**bhl-show-toc** [*depth*] [Function]  
 Get a new buffer named *\*toc\** with the table of contents. The default key binding is  $\langle \overline{C-c C-t} \rangle$ . The optional argument (*depth*) indicates the toc depth. Without any argument, the toc depth's value is *bhl-default-toc-depth*. This command is also available from the popup menu.

**bhl-show-lol** [Function]  
 Get a new buffer named *\*lol\** with the list of links. A link may be an URL or a WikiName. The default key binding is  $\langle \overline{C-c C-l} \rangle$ . This command is also available from the popup menu.

**bhl-goto-next-section** [Function]  
 Go to the next section. The default key binding is  $\langle \overline{C-c C-n} \rangle$ . With  $\langle \overline{C-u} \rangle$ , go to the next section or (sub)section.

**bhl-goto-previous-section** [Function]  
 Go to the previous section. The default key binding is  $\langle \overline{C-c C-p} \rangle$ . With  $\langle \overline{C-u} \rangle$ , go to the previous section or (sub)section.

**bhl-goto-next-url-or-wiki** [Function]  
 Go to the next URL or WikiName. The default key binding is  $\langle \overline{C-TAB} \rangle$ .

## 6.4 Changing font

**bhl-change-font-bold** [Function]  
 Place the cursor between two *\**. If a region is selected, put the region between two *\**. This overrides previous fontification. The default key binding is  $\langle \overline{C-c C-f C-b} \rangle$ .

- bhl-change-font-emphasis** [Function]  
Place the cursor between two `_`. If a region is selected, put the region between two `_`. This overrides previous fontification. The default key binding is `(C-c C-f C-e)`.
- bhl-change-font-underline** [Function]  
Place the cursor between two `__`. If a region is selected, put the region between two `__`. This overrides previous fontification. The default key binding is `(C-c C-f C-u)`.
- bhl-change-font-truetype** [Function]  
Place the cursor or a selected region between two `==`. If a region is selected, put the region between two `==`. This overrides previous fontification. The default key binding is `(C-c C-f C-t)`.
- bhl-change-font-bolditalic** [Function]  
Place the cursor between `_*` and `*_`. If a region is selected, put the region between `_*` and `*_`. This overrides previous fontification. The default key binding is `(C-c C-f C-)`.
- bhl-change-font-normal** [Function]  
Strip any fontification of the selected region. No effect when no region is selected. The default key binding is `(C-c C-f C-n)`.

## 6.5 Miscellaneous

- bhl-sectioning-switch-style** [Function]  
Read a sectioning style from the minibuffer and convert (sub)sections' prefix into this style. The available styles are `num`, `alpha`, `aster` and `equal-sign`.
- bhl-comment-region** [Function]  
Comment the current region. With a symbolic argument, uncomment the current region. The default key binding is `(C-c ;)`.
- bhl-hide-comment** [Function]  
Make the comments invisible. With a symbolic argument, make the comments visible again.
- bhl-compose-mail** [Function]  
Convert the current buffer into TXT format with `bhl2txt` and use the output in a mail draft. The default key binding is `(C-c C-x m)`. This command is also available from the popup menu.
- bhl-view-log** [Function]  
Display the log of the last conversion in a temporary buffer. This is by default added to `bhl-after-conversion-hook`. The default key binding is `(C-c C-c g)`.
- bhl-update-toc** [Function]  
Update the sections', subsections' and subsubsections' numbering. The default key binding is `(C-c M-t)`.
- bhl-submit-but-report** [Function]  
Send a mail with a bug report. This is only available in GNU Emacs.

**bhl-show-version** [Function]

Display the version number of the *bhl* mode. The default key binding is  $\overline{C-c C-v}$ .

**bhl-texi-toggle-accents** [Function]

Toggle accents in a Texinfo buffer. If you are using accents, it may be a good idea to add this function to *bhl-after-texi-conversion-hook*.

## 7 Options

You can change the value of each option via `M-x customize-group RET bhl RET` or via `Customize BHL` in the `bhl` menu.

### 7.1 Global options

`bhl-mode-hook` [User Option]

Hook run while in `bhl` mode. If you are under GNU Emacs, it could be useful to add `footnote-mode`, since `bhl` converts footnotes.

`bhl-after-conversion-hook` [User Option]

Hook run at the very end of a conversion. The default value is `bhl-initialize-properties` and `bhl-view-log`. If you remove this function, the conversion properties of the *last* converted buffer will be the default conversion properties for the *next* converted buffer – which may not be what you really want.

`bhl-autoguess-style-flag` [User Option]

If non-`nil`, autoguess the sectioning style. When you find a file, BHL tries to guess its sectioning style and sets the value of ‘`bhl-sectioning-default-style`’ to the value of the file’s style.

The default value of `bhl-autoguess-style-flag` is `nil`.

`bhl-sectioning-default-style` [User Option]

Define the style for the titles of sections, subsections and subsubsections. The five available styles are: numerical (`num`), alphabetical (`alpha`), asterisks (`aster`), equal-signs (`equal-signs`) and your own style (`my`). See [Section 3.2 \[Sections\]](#), page 4.

If you want to use your own style, you have to define `bhl-my-sectioning-regexp-list`. In this case, `bhl-update-toc` is not available anymore.

`bhl-my-sectioning-regexp-list` [User Option]

A list of regular expressions that match the different levels of sectioning. They respectively match the prefix of a section’s, subsection’s and subsubsection’s title. Since the titles of the sections are always put *at the beginning of the line*, you don’t have to insert a `^` in these regular expressions.

The default value of `bhl-my-sectioning-regexp-list` is the value of `bhl-my-sectioning-regexp-list`, which corresponds to the numerical style (`num`).

`bhl-verbatim-ignore` [User Option]

A list of syntactic elements that shouldn’t be converted when found inside a verbatim environment. The default value of this variable is `(tag comment list description table url wikiname images special-char tex-label footnote quote)`.

`bhl-ignored-regexps` [User Option]

A list of regexps. Each line matching a regexp within this list is automatically killed before any conversion.

**bhl-tags-overlap-flag** [User Option]  
 Non-nil means that you can use tags on multiple lines. Maybe useful to turn this option off is you want to use tags on multiple lines inside a verbatim environment.

**bhl-i18n-conventions** [User Option]  
 The car of this variable is a language specification among **english**, **french** and **german**. bhl will follows conventions according to the chosen language.  
 If the second element if t, bhl follows conventions concerning the punctuation, as defined in *bhl-xx-punctuation* (where **xx** is **en**, **fr** or **de**).  
 If the third element if t, bhl follows conventions concerning the quotation marks, as defined in *bhl-xx-quotation-marks*.  
 If the fourth element if t, bhl follows conventions concerning special characters, as defined in *bhl-xx-special-chars*.

**bhl-browse-url-function** [User Option]  
 A function for calling your favorite browser. The default value is **browse-url**.

## 7.2 BHL to HTML

**bhl-after-html-conversion-hook** [User Option]  
 Hook run after the HTML conversion.

**bhl2html-properties-list** [User Option]  
 The list of properties relevant for the **bhl2html** conversion. See [Chapter 4 \[Properties of conversion\]](#), page 12. Don't modify this variable manually. Use **M-x customize** instead.

**bhl-html-conversions-list** [User Option]  
 A list of conversions to perform with **bhl2html**. Each element of this list is boolean. Don't edit this option manually, use **M-x customize** instead.

**bhl-html-meta-alist** [User Option]  
 A list of META tags to be inserted in the header of HTML output. Each element is divided into two elements: the first one indicates the *name* of the META tag, the second one indicates the *content* of the META tag.

```
'(('author' . 'you'))
  <META name="author" content="you">
```

**bhl-html-link-alist** [User Option]  
 A list of LINK tags to be inserted in the header of HTML output. Each element is divided into two elements: the first one indicates the *rel* of the LINK tag, the second one indicates the *href* of the LINK tag.

```
'(('generator-home . 'http://www.nongnu.org/bhl))
  <LINK rel="generator-home" href="http://www.nongnu.org/bhl">
```

**bhl-html-doctype** [User Option]  
 The document type description of the HTML output. The default value is: `<!DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN">`.

- bhl-html-content-type** [User Option]  
The content type description of the HTML output. The default value is: `<META HTTP-EQUIV="Content-Type" CONTENT="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">`.
- bhl-html-default-style** [User Option]  
The style to be inserted into the header (`<HEAD>...</HEAD>`) of the HTML output.
- bhl-html-title-tags** [User Option]  
A list defining the opening and closing tags of the HTML title.
- bhl-html-subtitle-tags** [User Option]  
A list defining the opening and closing tags of the HTML subtitle.
- bhl-html-para-align** [User Option]  
How *bhl* aligns each paragraph of the HTML output. The default value is `none`.
- bhl-html-img-align** [User Option]  
Image alignment. The default value is `center`.
- bhl-html-list-item-is-para-flag** [User Option]  
Non-`nil` means that list items are paragraphs into the HTML output.
- bhl-html-footer** [User Option]  
A string that will be put at the end of the HTML output.

### 7.3 BHL to LaTeX

- bhl-after-latex-conversion-hook** [User Option]  
Hook run after the LaTeX conversion.
- bhl2latex-properties-list** [User Option]  
The list of properties relevant for the *bhl2latex* conversion. See [Chapter 4 \[Properties of conversion\]](#), page 12. Don't modify this variable manually. Use `M-x customize` instead.
- bhl-latex-conversions-list** [User Option]  
A list of conversions to perform with *bhl2latex*. Each element of this list is boolean. Don't edit this option manually, use `M-x customize` instead.
- bhl-latex-packages-alist** [User Option]  
A list of packages to be included in the LaTeX header. Each element is divided into two elements: the first one indicates the *name* of the packages, the second one indicates the *options* of the package.
- ```
'(('inputenc' . 'latin1'))'
      \usepackage[latin1]{inputenc}.
```
- bhl-latex-default-class** [User Option]  
The default class of document for the LaTeX output. The default value is `article`.

- bhl-latex-default-class-options** [User Option]  
The default options passed to the `\documentclass{...}` command. The default value is 12pt.
- bhl-latex-extra-preambles** [User Option]  
A list of lines to be included in the LaTeX header.
- bhl-latex-extra-body** [User Option]  
A list of lines to be included before the first section.
- bhl-latex-default-class-options** [User Option]  
The default options passed to the `\documentclass{...}` command. The default value is 12pt.
- bhl-latex-footer** [User Option]  
A string that will be put at the end of the LaTeX output.

## 7.4 BHL to Texinfo

- bhl-texi-conversion-hook** [User Option]  
Hook run after the Texinfo conversion. The default value is `(texinfo-every-node-update bhl-texi-make-menu)`, so that the output file is ready for compilation. If you are using accents, you may add `bhl-texi-toggle-accents`.
- bhl2texi-properties-list** [User Option]  
The list of properties relevant for the `bhl2texinfo` conversion. See [Chapter 4 \[Properties of conversion\]](#), page 12. Don't modify this variable manually. Use M-x `customize` instead.
- bhl-texi-conversions-list** [User Option]  
A list of conversions to perform with `bhl2texinfo`. Each element of this list is boolean. Don't edit this option manually, use M-x `customize` instead.
- bhl-texi-setchapternewpage-flag** [User Option]  
Set the `@setchapternewpage` value. The default value is `on`.
- bhl-texi-titlepage-style** [User Option]  
The style of the title page. The `classical` titlepage is the one mostly used by the GNU manuals. The `centered` titlepage centers the title and other informations on the front page.
- bhl-texi-centered-minipage-tag** [User Option]  
The default tag used for the conversion of centered minipages. See [Section 3.3.3 \[Environments\]](#), page 6.
- bhl-texi-table-tag** [User Option]  
The tag for the conversion of tables in the Texinfo output. The default value is `verbatim`. If you want to skip tables when converting into Texinfo format, you should set this to `ignore`.
- bhl-texi-footer** [User Option]  
A string that will be put at the end of the Texinfo output.

## 7.5 BHL to SGML

**bhl-after-sgml-conversion-hook** [User Option]  
Hook run after the SGML conversion.

**bhl2sgml-properties-list** [User Option]  
The list of properties relevant for the `bhl2sgml` conversion. See [Chapter 4 \[Properties of conversion\]](#), page 12. Don't modify this variable manually. Use `M-x customize` instead.

**bhl-sgml-conversions-list** [User Option]  
A list of conversions to perform with `bhl2sgml`. Each element of this list is boolean. Don't edit this option manually, use `M-x customize` instead.

**bhl-sgml-list-item-is-para-flag** [User Option]  
Non-`nil` means that list items are paragraphs into the SGML output.

**bhl-sgml-minipage-tag** [User Option]  
The default tag used for the conversion of minipages. See [Section 3.3.3 \[Environments\]](#), page 6.

**bhl-sgml-footer** [User Option]  
A string that will be put at the end of the SGML output.

## 7.6 BHL to WIKI

Starting with 1.7.9, BHL implements a `bhl2wiki` fonction. For now, the conversion is far from perfect, but it may be useful.

**bhl-after-wiki-conversion-hook** [User Option]  
Hook run after the conversion into WIKI. This hook is run just before 'bhl-after-conversion-hook'.

**bhl2wiki-properties-list** [User Option]  
List of properties of the 'bhl2wiki' conversion.

**bhl-wiki-conversions-list** [User Option]  
A list of conversion functions to perform with 'bhl2html'. Each element of this list corresponds to a conversion function.

**bhl-wiki-footer** [User Option]  
A string that will be put at the end of the WIKI output.

## 7.7 BHL to TXT

**bhl-after-txt-conversion-hook** [User Option]  
Hook run after the TXT conversion.

**bhl2txt-properties-list** [User Option]  
The list of properties relevant for the `bhl2txt` conversion. See [Chapter 4 \[Properties of conversion\]](#), page 12. Don't modify this variable manually. Use `M-x customize` instead.

**bhl-txt-conversions-list** [User Option]  
A list of conversions to perform with `bhl2txt`. Each element of this list is boolean. Don't edit this option manually, use `M-x customize` instead.

## 7.8 Wiki options

**bhl-is-a-local-wiki-flag** [User Option]  
If non-`nil`, this means that `bhl` is a local wiki. You can toggle this variable from the menu.

**bhl-default-wikifiles-extension** [User Option]  
The default extension for the Wiki file names. The default value for this options is `.bhl`. For example, when following a WikiName named `MyWikiName`, a new file named `MyWikiName.bhl` will be found.

**bhl-downcase-wikifiles-names-flag** [User Option]  
If non-`nil`, following a WikiName named `MyWikiName` will find a file named `mywikiname.bhl`, which is the downcased value of the WikiName. Otherwise, it will find a file named `MyWikiName.bhl`.

**bhl-non-wiki-names-list** [User Option]  
A list of mixed-case strings that should not be considered as WikiNames. For example: "OpenOffice".

## 7.9 Options of the toc

**bhl-default-toc-depth** [User Option]  
The default doc depth. The default value is three.

**bhl-toc-location** [User Option]  
Indicates the toc location. This variable may have three different values: `top` (just after the title), `bottom` (just before the end) or `point` (at point).

**bhl-intro-toc** [User Option]  
A string to insert before the table of contents in the source file.

**bhl-end-toc** [User Option]  
A string to insert after the table of contents in the `bhl` files.

## 7.10 Converting tables

**bhl-table-location** [User Option]

Where to put the table. The default value is **htbp**, i.e. **here top bottom page**. This variable does not concern the HTML output.

**bhl-table-align** [User Option]

The table alignment. The default value is **center**.

**bhl-table-cell-align** [User Option]

The cell alignment inside a table. The default value is **center**.

## 8 Example

```

Just ANOther Example

--- Table of contents

  1. Fonts and environments
    1.1. Using font beautifiers
    1.2. Environments
  2. Converting lists
    2.1. Ordered and non-ordered lists
    2.2. Description lists
    2.3. Nested lists
  3. Converting tables
  4. Browsing your document
    4.1. The table of content
    4.2. The list of links
  5. Contact

--- End of the table of contents

# This is the last example of a BHL file converted into HTML, LaTeX
# and SGML formats. This example shows you the various syntactic rules
# that BHL handles. For further details, please refer to the manual
# of the BHL mode. http://www.nongnu.org/bhl

# These lines are comments.
# You can comment a region with 'bhl-comment-region'

# The few next lines are specification lines. They
# indicate the properties of the different conversions.

#!author!Bastien Guerry
#!date!It is %Hh%M on %d/%m/%Y.

#!html!toc:nocaption:noprefix:noi18n
#!sgml!caption
#!latex!toc:caption:prefix:i18n
#!latex-options!11pt:a4paper
#!latex-packages!inputenc[latin1]

This document is a small example of what BHL can do. For further
details, please read the full documentation on
http://www.nongnu.org/bhl.

#!language!fr
#!encoding!iso-8859-1
#!texi-style!centered

1. Fonts and environments

  1.1. Using font beautifiers

Here is a list of the *different* fonts beautifiers that you can
use inside the BHL mode.

```

```

Bold -- *one or two words.*
Emphasis -- _one or two words._
Truetype -- ==one or two words.==
Underline -- __one or two words.__
Bold italic -- *_one or two words*_.
```

If want to insert an asterisk, you can use the escape character like `\*this\*` or like `\_this\_.` This is also available for `\#comments.`

## 1.2. Environments

BHL handles two specific environments: `verbatim` and `minipage`.

Verbatim:

```

--
Here is a part of text that will be displayed
in verbatim #a comment
```

Please remark[1] that this environment has no syntactic rule, except you modify the variable `bhl-verbatim-ignore`.

\* list are ignored

And so do...

Item -- descriptions.

And so do tables!

```

| A | B |
| C | D |
```

And so do quote environments:

```

    blahblahblah
    blahblahblah
```

Etc.  
--

A minipage:

```

%%[12cm]
This minipage (12cm) is centered without border.
%%
```

```

<%%[10cm]
This minipage (10cm) is put on the left without border.
%%
```

```

>-%%[8cm]
This minipage (8cm) is put on the right with border.
%%
```

A horizontal rule:

```
----[3cm]
```

Another horizontal rule, put on the right:

```
>---[3cm]
```

## 2. Converting lists

### 2.1. Ordered and non-ordered lists

*\*Ordered\** lists begin with three *\*whitespaces\**, a list separator (*\\**, *-* or *o*) and another whitespace.

*\* Like this;*  
*\* or like that.*

### 2.2. Description lists

Description lists are treated like other lists, except that they cannot be nested in other lists.

A description item consists in tabs, a term to be defined, a whitespace, two dashes and another whitespace.

Term -- a definition of the terme.  
Definition -- another definition.

### 2.3. Nested lists

*\* Lists can be nested inside other lists.*

*\* You just need to add three whitespaces more.*  
*\* These two items will be nested into two other items. sldkfj  
lskdjf lmlkm*

1. Three levels of nested lists are supported.  
2. Four levels won't be very useful...

*\* Blank lines are not mandatory between items.*

## 3. Converting tables

A WikiName.

Here is a table:

|                 |                  |  |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| @dHL et lqskdj@ | @qsdqsd0olsqdf@  |  |
| Free software   | bastien1@free.fr |  |
| With Emacs      | Without Emacs    |  |
| bastien         | Without Emacs    |  |

A table line begins and ends with a "|". Other "|" inside a line of the table separate two cells. Arobases around the content of a cell mean that this cell is a header of the table.

## 4. Browsing your document

#### 4.1. The table of content

You can `_browse_` the table of content, `_insert_` it inside your document, and `_update_` the numbering of sections.

The default key binding for browsing the table of content is C-c C-t.

You can also choose the style of sectioning and swith from one style to another. The style of this document is set to `*num*` (which is the default style) by the specification line above.

#### 4.2. The list of links

The default key binding for browsing the list of links is C-c C-/. This creates a new buffer with a list of URLs or wikinames that you can follow.

#### 5. Contact

Please feel free to submit bugs or ideas:  
[[mailto:bastien1@free.fr][BHL contact]].

Footnotes:

[1] A note.

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## Thanks

BHL is somewhat related to `emacs-wiki.el` and `muse.el` and you should have a look at them. They are more wiki-oriented than BHL and they can be more convenient if you want to convert a lot of pages at the same time. But basically they do the same job.

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